IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFI

Appln. Serial No.: 09/431,451

Filing Date: November 1, 1999

Applicant: Senapathy, P.

Group Art Unit: 1650

Examiner: Sisson, B.

Attorney Docket No.: 34623.005

Title: METHOD FOR AMPLIFYING SEQUENCES FROM UNKNOWN DNA

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

BOX: FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

To the Commissioner:

Responsive to the Office Action dated July 18, 2000, the time period for response thereto being set to expire January 18, 2001 by virtue of the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the following amendment, accompanying remarks, and Rule 132 Declaration of Periannan Senapathy, submitted herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-7, 12, and 16-25 as follows:

(AMENDED) A method of [specifically] amplifying desired regions of nuettic acid from a [sample containing] nucleic acid template comprising:

- (a) providing a plurality of first PCR primers, each first primer having a region of fixed nucleotide sequence identical or complementary to a consensus sequence of interest and a region of randomized nucleotide sequence located 5' to, 3' to, anywhere within, or flanking the region of fixed nucleotide sequence;
- (b) providing a plurality of second PCR primers, each second primer having a region of arbitrary, yet fixed nucleotide sequence and a region of randomized